

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 10, 2006. Claims 1-10 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 9 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully refrains from so amending Claims 2-8 at this time because they believe their respective base claims to be allowable.

On the merits, the Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hieda. (U.S. Patent No. 5,695,359; hereinafter "Hieda"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Hieda fails to recite or suggest a clipping device for clipping the sensor output signal or the plurality of color signal values where the clipping device detects whether or not each of the reconstructed color signal values exceeds a predetermined threshold clip level below the maximum sensitivity of the sensor. Rather, Hieda recites clipping when a maximum of the color carrier exceeds the full scale of the AD converter. (See, e.g., Col. 3, lines 58-

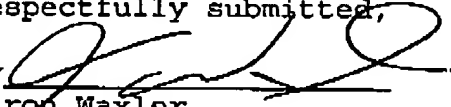
65) Thus Hieda fails to recite or suggest every element of Applicant's Claim 1. Applicant respectfully traverses the § 102(b) rejection over Hieda for at least these reasons.

Claim 9 recites a method substantially corresponding to the signal processing device of Claim 1 and is believed patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 2-8 and 10 depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are believed patentable for at least the same reasons. In addition, Applicant believes Claims 2-8 and 10 to be independently patentable and requests separate consideration of each claim.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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